

Home | Leisure  
News | Obituaries  
Sports | Marketplace  
Business | Site Map  
Classifieds | Weather

## The Advocate **ONLINE**

[Back to Index](#)

Published on 4/1/00

[E-mail this story to a friend](#)

Saturday Special

### 'Always a Marine'

Statue to honor La. military hero Lt. Gen. Lejeune

By JENNIFER COOKE  
Special to The Advocate

**Valpak.com**  
*There's More  
Values On Line  
For You!*



**Valpak.com**

The Advocate  
**Custom Sales**  
**Door Step Delivery**

Check local  
**TRAFFIC CAMS**  
before you get  
caught in this ...



**americas  
library.gov**

Check local  
**TRAFFIC CAMS**  
before you get  
caught in this ...



Advocate photo by Randy  
Bergeron

**Sculptor Patrick Millier works on  
a likeness of Lt. Gen. John  
Lejeune. Miller is creating a statue  
of Lejeune that will be erected later  
this year on the lawn of the Pointe  
Coupee Parish Courthouse.**

NEW ROADS -- A New Orleans businessman who takes to heart the saying "Once a Marine, always a Marine," is joining with the U.S. Marine Corps to erect a life-sized bronze statue of the Corps' 1920s Cajun commandant hailed by Marines everywhere as a visionary leader.

Patrick Taylor, chairman and CEO of Taylor Energy Co., along with the Marine Corps and Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base in North Carolina, will dedicate a statue of Lt. Gen. John Archer Lejeune Nov. 5 on the lawn of the Pointe Coupee Parish Courthouse.

Lejeune's "extraordinary vision and innovative programs have defined the future missions of our Corps for over 75 years," Maj. Gen. Ronald G. Richard said in a letter sent in January to the Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury.

Lejeune was born in Batchelor in 1867. He is "widely recognized as the one Marine who single-handedly saved the Corps from extinction following World War I, and (is) one of the Corps' most beloved commandants," said 2nd Lt. James Jarvis, public affairs officer at Camp Lejeune.

The Police Jury learned during its Jan. 25 meeting that Taylor and the Marine Corps wished to erect the statue in the parish of Lejeune's birth. Jarvis said backers of the Lejeune memorial project were interested in placing the

life-sized statue and its pedestal in a prominent, public place in the parish.

"It began when we in the Marine Corps said we should try to do something in the home parish of John A. Lejeune" to honor him, the people and said. Jarvis called Taylor because he knew of Taylor's dedication to the Marines.

"Mr. Taylor is a great patriot, great supporter of the Marines and a great American," Gen. Richard said. "I don't say those words lightly because we in the Marine Corps would die for those words."

Gen. Richard visited New Roads in early March to meet with Police Jury President Jimmy Bello, New Roads Mayor Sylvester Muckelroy, parish Chamber of Commerce President Ivonne Chenevert, parish architect Glenn Morgan and Police Jury Secretary-Treasurer David Cifreo to "show y'all we are serious about this and to meet you ahead of time."

"I am a native son (of Louisiana) and it just so happens I'm the commanding general of the base named after General Lejeune," Richard said.

During the dedication ceremonies, "I'll speak for 10 or 15 minutes," Richard said. "When I get through, you'll have a lump in your throat and chill bumps on your neck."

Richard also said he plans for the Marine Corps band from New Orleans to play.

The feelings by Marines about Lejeune run deep, the general said. He was so influential that, each year, Marines across the country still read his description of what characteristics Marines should have and how they are expected to help their nation.

"John A. Lejeune is an icon," Richard said. "He brought to the Marine Corps the idea (of a student-teacher relationship) between a senior officer and a young man."

Lejeune was the commanding general of the 2nd Allied Expeditionary Force in Europe during World War I. From 1920 to 1929, he served as 13th commandant of the Marine Corps.

While serving in World War I, he led both Marines and U.S. Army troops. Lejeune is credited with developing the Marines' amphibious warfare doctrine in support of large-scale naval operations widely applied in the Pacific Theater during World War II and still in use to the present day, Jarvis said.

Lejeune, born at the Old Hickory Plantation in Pointe Coupee Parish, attended LSU from 1881 to 1884, then resigned to enroll in the U.S. Naval

Academy, where he graduated in 1888. Lejeune died a retired lieutenant general in 1942 after serving as commandant of Virginia Military Academy.

His decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal (Navy); the Distinguished Service Medal (Army); the Sampson Medal; Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, with three stars; the Mexican Service Medal; the World War I Victory Medal, with clasp for St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne, and Defensive Sector; Second Nicaraguan Campaign Medal; Legion d'Honneur, commander; and the Croix de Guerre with bronze palm.

Taylor, who is financing the Lejeune statue project, joined the Marine Corps Officer Training program when he became a student at LSU, but a heart problem kept him from receiving his commission.

"The Marine Corps had a significant influence on my young life," Taylor said. "It showed me what I could become."

"I was honored to be approached by the Marine Corps when they told me their idea to erect a monument to the greatest Marine," he said.

Taylor and Richard discussed placing the statue near Lejeune's old home, but decided on the courthouse because it is in a more prominent place and the statue will receive better care, Taylor said. Lejeune's old home is in need of substantial repair.

Taylor commissioned sculptor Patrick Miller to fashion it to be historically accurate.

"I wanted to do it myself and wanted to do it alone for the Marine Corps," Taylor said of his financial backing. He said Miller has sculpted bronze figures for him before and that he is working with the Marine Corps museum to accurately depict Lejeune in bronze.

"We want to portray him as a snapshot in time," Taylor said. Historical uniforms and photographs are being used to help design the statue.

The statue will portray Lejeune during his days as the commanding general of the 2nd Allied Expeditionary Force during World War I, Jarvis said.

Once the statue is completed, the Marine Corps will transport it to New Roads. On the day of the ceremony, Richard and his wife will join Taylor and other dignitaries at the unveiling.

The statue will be unveiled in a public afternoon ceremony coordinated with the New Roads traditional Veteran's Day ceremonies. A historical marker with his career highlights and a statement by him of what it meant to be from

Pointe Coupee Parish will be placed nearby.

Taylor will provide a flag pole, and the Corps will provide a Marine Corps flag to fly next to the statue, Richard said. Private donations as well as some Marine Corps funds will fund the pedestal.

"Since it's John A. Lejeune," Richard said he believes flying a Marine Corps flag is appropriate.

But Taylor is providing much more than that.

In addition to supplying the life-sized bronze statue for Pointe Coupee Parish, Taylor has commissioned Miller to make a total of four identical statues.

The first will be placed at the courthouse in New Roads. Then, on Nov. 9, a second statue will be erected at Camp Lejeune. Later, a Lejeune statue will be erected at the Marine Corps base in Quantico, Va., and the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. Both bases have buildings named after Lejeune.

"This is giving back to my beloved Marine Corps," Taylor said. "This will be worth more to me than, I think, anybody else."

[Top of page](#)

---

---

## SITE INDEX

HOME: [About Us](#) | [Archives](#) | [Help](#) | [Search](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Subscribe](#)

NEWS: [AP Wire](#) | [Elections](#) | [Health news](#) | [Legislature](#) | [Police Briefs](#) | [Religion](#) | [School News](#) | [Science](#) | [Smiley](#)

SUBURBAN [Acadiana](#) | [Baker, Zachary, Felicianas](#) | [Florida parishes](#) |  
NEWS: [River parishes](#) | [Westside](#)

WEATHER: [Current Weather](#)

SPORTS: [ECHL hockey](#) | [High school sports](#) | [LSU sports](#) | [Outdoors](#) |  
[New Orleans Saints](#) | [SEC FanaticZone](#) | [Southern University](#) |  
[Team Schedules](#)

PEOPLE: [Obituaries](#) | [Food](#) | [Teen Stuff](#)

LEISURE: [Movies](#) | [Television](#) | [Music](#) | [Books](#) | [Comics](#) | [Horoscopes](#) | [Crossword](#) |  
[Wordsearch](#) | [Travel](#) | [Personals](#)

BUSINESS: [Briefs](#) | [Technobabble](#) | [Motley Fool](#)

OPINION: [Inside Report](#) | [Joan McKinney](#) | [Milford Fryer](#) | [Our Views](#) | [Perspective](#) |  
[Political Horizons](#)

ADVERTISING: [Advertise with Us](#) | [Advocate ADvantages](#) | [Apartment Directory](#) | [Classifieds](#) |  
[Display \(Graphical\) Ads](#) | [Employment Classifieds](#) | [La Job Market](#) |  
[Marketplace](#) | [Real Estate Classifieds](#) | [Wheels \(Automotive\) Section](#) | [Yellow Pages](#)

[SPECIAL Millennium](#) | [Vacation](#) | [Weddings](#) |  
[SECTIONS: World Wide Wanderers](#) | [Other Special Sections](#)

Copyright © 1995-2002, The Advocate, Capital City Press, All Rights Reserved.

Comments about our site, write: [comments@theadvocate.com](mailto:comments@theadvocate.com)

[Advertise with us](#)

For information about newspaper jobs @ The Advocate - [click here](#)

